

FRIDAY EVENING WITH POETRY AND MANDOLIN

November 24th 2006

The Friday after thanks giving was a bright sunny day. The warmth of the day followed by a pleasant evening was the perfect setup to spend few hours with bubbles of sentiments and pamper the romantic, imaginative, inner-self. "Bharatiya Kala Kendra" arranged



a unique event in that evening that was just needed for that evening. The event titled "Friday evening with poetry and mandolin" had a different concept. The Director of "Bharatiya Kala Kendra", Mr. Parthasarathi Mukhopadhyay, explained the creative outlook of the organization and how they planned to present all three key elements of music; the lyrics, the rhythm and the melody; with their distinct existence; through the events of that evening.

The evening started with poet "Goutam Dutta". Goutam is regularly publishing his poems in Bengali while living in the USA. His poems appear in numerous magazines including prestigious "Calloo" magazine. Goutam received "Jasimuddin" Poetry award in the year 2003. The best of Goutam's on that evening was a series of 6 poems titled "Grihajudhdher Dalil" [Documents of Civil War].



The celebrity-poet of the evening, "Srijato Bandopadhyay", was the next. "Srijato", the most prolific of the new generation of Bengali-language poets, has published eight poetry collections and earned number of rewards and awards. He lives in Kolkata,



where he edits the literary journal *Jaruri Abastha [State of Emergency]*. He participates courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. "Srijato", being a modern poet, has exceptional grip and passion for rhythms and beat-patterns of traditional poetry. His poetry is easy going like a stream; conveying clear message like morning sky; floating all around like a fragrance.



Dr. Faroque Azam was the last poet of the poetry session in that evening. Poet, actor, reciter, playwright. Dr. Azam is a person of multiple talents. He was the feature poet of "Poet to Poet" an American poetry organization. He performed in off Broadway plays and currently he is host of TV Asia's 'Probash Bangla', a national channel on dish. Dr. Azam recited few poems and touched everyone's heart with his gifted voice and presentation-style.

The post-dinner session was the most awaited performance on Mandolin by well renowned artist "Shri Snehasish Mozumdar" on with "Pandit Samir Chatterjee" on Tabla. Snehasish Mozumdar is among those few established musicians in India who has mastered the art of playing Mandolin, and has blended it perfectly into the style of Hindustani Indian Classical Music. Snehasish has received



invaluable assets of musical heritage from number of great 'Guru's in India and has performed in number of prestigious festivals in India and abroad, including the special concert arranged by "Pandit Ravi Shankar" at ROYAL ALBERT

HALL, London; in the memory of "George Harrison". He is the recipient of "Surmani" and "Jadubhatta" awards. Besides playing



Indian Classical Music, his contribution to Fusion is also well respected, having introduced his invention, a Hybrid Mandolin comprising of a "Double Neck" into that scene.

Known as a maestro of the great Farrukhabad Gharana (school), Pandit Samir Chatterjee is a virtuoso Tabla player of India. "Pandit Samir Chatterjee" has performed in numerous festivals as a soloist or with other outstanding musicians from both Indian and western traditions.

His compositions are widely acclaimed as well as his writings. He has become a catalyst in the fusion of Indian and Western music.

Snehasish and Samir were introduced to audience respectively by Indranil Mukherjee and Arun Bhowmik.



Snehasish started with Raga "Charukeshi" and within minutes he mesmerized the audience with his magical touch that produces powerful "meed" and "gamak" from an instrument of limited scope like Mandolin.



His technique in "Jod" and "Jhala" part was unique and he demonstrated great command and ease over the instrument. Colorful "Gat" of different "taal" with rich "laykari" was the asset of the evening.

"Pdt Samir Chatterjee" was absolutely great on "Tabla" and rendered the exact style of accompaniment required. Audiences, who have listened to "Pdt Samir Chatterjee", had experienced a different flavor of his talent on that evening. Second presentation was on "Mishra Pilu". "Snehasish" once again demonstrated his depth of knowledge on different "Ragas" and the style of smooth transition from one to another.